



ENCLOSURES FOR POOLS, SPAS, AND HOT TUBS

PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT • COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
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Intent of the Law:

According to the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission an estimated 350 children under five years of age drown each year in swimming pools. The key to preventing these tragedies is to have layers of protection. A pool enclosure is the best way to reduce the possibility of a child drowning. An enclosure is defined as one of the following: a fence, wall, a listed safety cover, or other approved barrier that restricts access to a swimming pool, spa or hot tub. This hand out is a summary of pool enclosure requirements found in Section 3109 of the California Building Code and as amended by Title 19 of the County Code.

Barriers Requirements for in Ground Pools:

1. Top of the barrier shall be a minimum of 60" above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the pool.
2. The maximum vertical clearance under the bottom of the barrier shall be 2 inches measured on the side which faces away from the pool. This distance may be increased to 4 inches when the surface below the barrier is a solid surface such as a concrete deck. Any elements which make the barrier easy to climb are prohibited. Openings in barriers shall not allow passage of a 1-3/4 inch diameter sphere.
3. When the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members, such as in wrought iron fencing, and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches the spacing between the vertical members of the barrier must not exceed 1.75 inches.
4. For fencing composed of vertical & horizontal members, the spacing between vertical members may be increased up to 4 inches when the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches or greater.
5. Chain link fencing used as the barrier shall have a maximum mesh size of 2.25 inches square.
6. Access gates shall comply with the above requirements. Pedestrian access gates shall open outward in the direction away from the pool. These gates shall be self-closing and have self-latching devices. Where the gate release mechanism is located less than 54 inches above the bottom of the gate, it shall be located on the pool side of the barrier and the gate and barrier shall have no openings greater than 1/2-inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism. Gates other than pedestrian access gates shall remain locked at all times when not in use.

Requirements for Dwellings Where a Wall is a Part of the Barrier:

Where a wall of a dwelling unit serves as part of the barrier & contains door openings that provide direct access to the pool, a separation fence meeting the above requirements shall apply. Or, when approved by the building official, one of the following may be used:

1. All doors that provide access to the pool area shall have self-closing & self-latching devices installed with the release mechanism located a minimum of 54-inches above the floor.
2. All doors with direct access to the pool shall be equipped with an alarm. The alarm shall be listed in accordance with UL 2017. The audible alarm shall activate within 7 seconds and sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds when the door is opened. The alarm shall reset automatically. There shall be a manual means such as a touchpad to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Such deactivation shall last for not more than 15 seconds. The alarm shall be located a minimum of 54 inches above the door threshold. Alarm systems may be battery operated or connected to house wiring.

Pool Safety Covers:

Power operated safety covers complying with ASTM specification F1346 may be used in lieu of pool fencing. Hot tubs and spas may have manually installed locking safety covers. All safety covers must be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory (NRTL).

Requirements for Above Ground Pools, Hot Tubs, or Spas:

When an above ground pool structure is used or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure and the means of access is a ladder or steps, then (A) the ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked, or removed to prevent access or (B) they shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements above. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked, or removed, any opening created shall be protected by a barrier complying with requirements above.

Note: Swimming pools must have a barrier installed before the pool is filled with water.

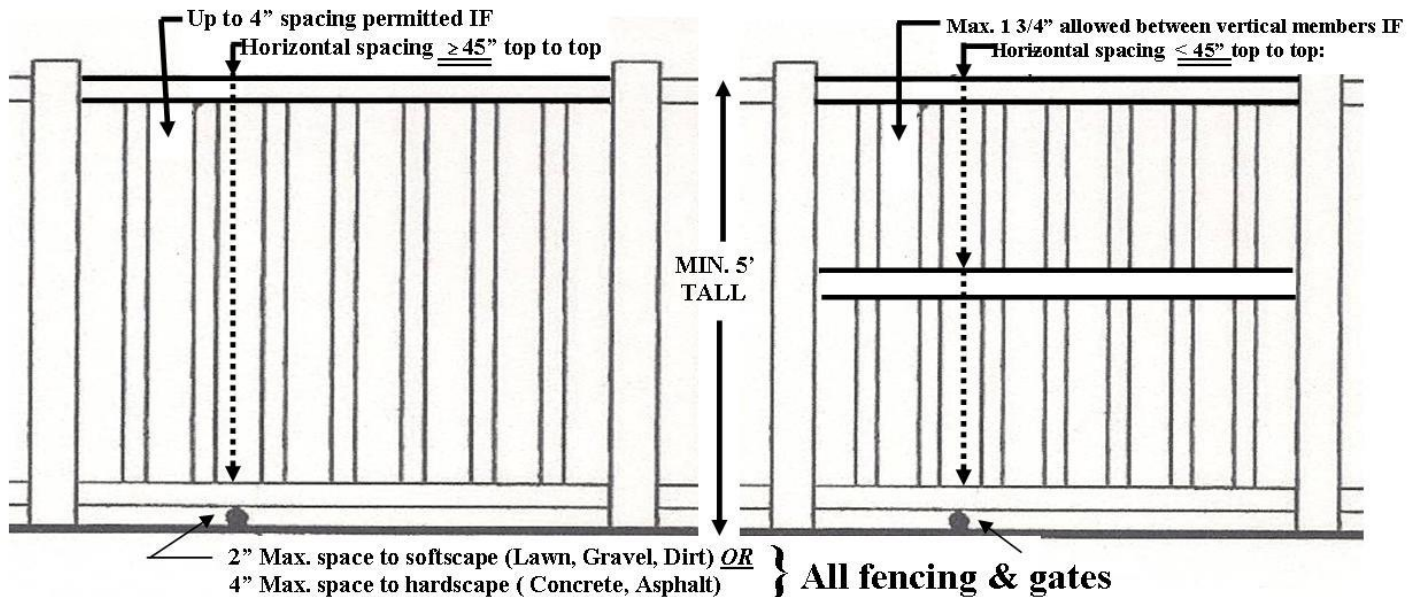
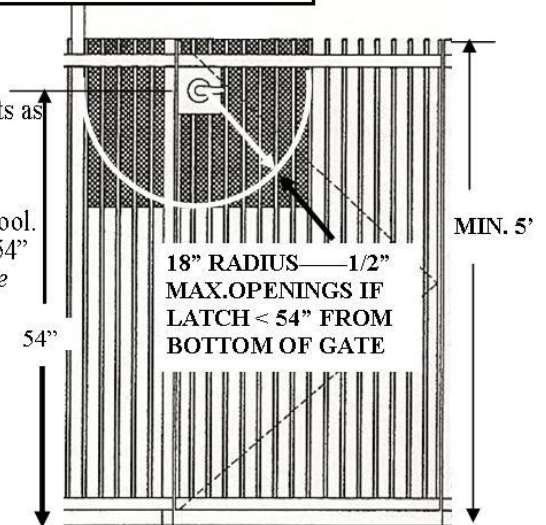
SEE TEXT OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE FOR SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

GENERAL:

1. These diagrams illustrate the specific requirements of the ordinance and are intended only as an aid for barrier design & construction.
2. Pool covers may be used in lieu of fencing but must be power operated and conform to *ASTM F1346*.
3. Alarms must conform to *UL2017*- See text for requirements.
4. *No barrier elements on side away from pool that would make climbing easy.*
5. All measurements referenced to side away from pool.
6. "NO-CLIMB" fencing does not meet minimum barrier requirements.

GATES:

1. Same general requirements as fencing.
2. Must be self-closing and latching.
3. Must swing away from pool.
4. Latch must be a min. of 54" above bottom of gate OR be placed on pool side of barrier with no openings > 1/2" within 18" of latch.
5. Non-pedestrian gates to be locked at all times.



PICKET OR WROUGHT IRON FENCING-ALL FENCING WITH VERTICAL & HORIZONTAL ELEMENTS

